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BORIS T. PASH

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Q-13 Bon3 Pash

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A1505 Mission
Subject File

Recommendations
Legion of Merit Award, 1945

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WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

19 May 1945

*processed by
hand by
Moy*

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Legion of Merit Award to Colonel
B. T. Pash, Chief, ALSOS Mission

TO : Lt. Colonel G. R. Eckman
Deputy Chief, ALSOS Mission
G-2 Section, Hq ETOUSA
APO 887, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

1. Reference is made to the attached recommendations for an award of Legion of Merit for Colonel B. T. Pash, Chief, ALSOS Mission, which was prepared by you and forwarded to the Chief, Military Intelligence Service, War Department, Washington, D. C.

2. A specific procedure has been established for the processing of Legion of Merit awards within the War Department, and it is necessary that all recommendations be submitted in conformance with this procedure. For this reason, it is requested that the attached recommendation be resubmitted by you to the Office of the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C. The Adjutant General will in turn refer it to the A. C. of S., G-2, WDGS, for remark and recommendation and subsequent approval or disapproval.

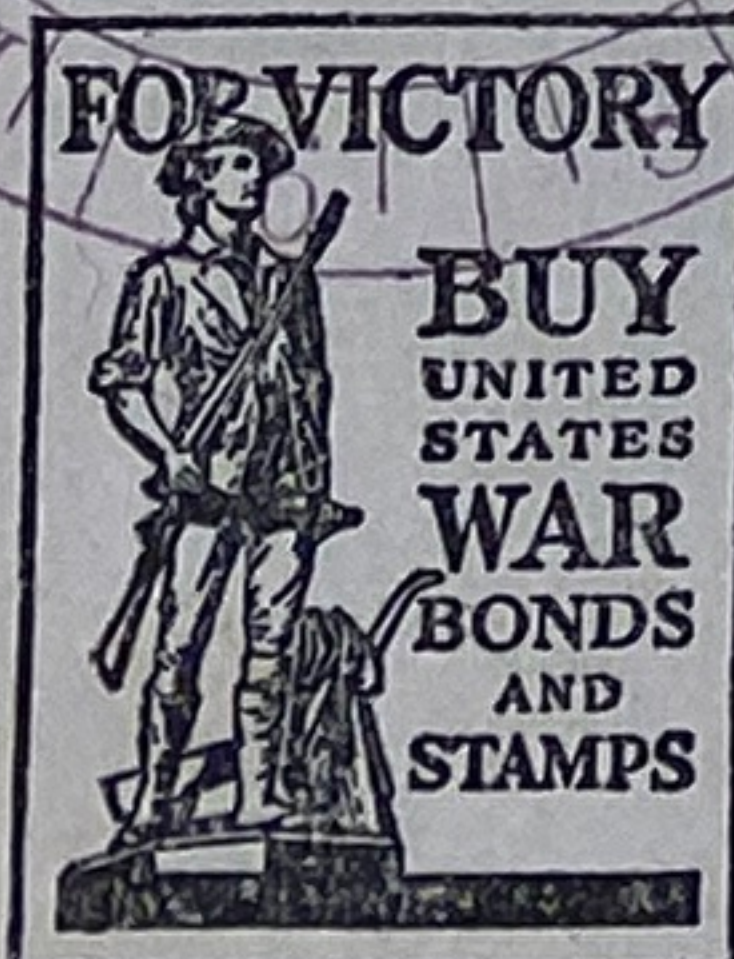
3. In addition, your attention is invited to the fact that this award has not been signed nor has the accompanying certificate prepared for Captain R. C. Augustine's signature been signed. It is further suggested that you endeavor to secure substantiating recommendations from G-2, ETOUSA and/or G-2, SHAEF. Recommendations of this nature will materially facilitate favorable consideration of a Legion of Merit award in this case.

FOR THE CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE:



1 Incl:
Rec for Award

W. M. Adams
W. M. ADAMS
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Foreign Branch



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SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Legion of Merit.

TO: Chief, Military Intelligence Service, War Department, Washington, D.C.
(THRU: Chief, Foreign Branch)

1. a. It is recommended that Colonel Boris T. Pash, O-275706, (MI) GSC
(then Lieut. Colonel) Chief of the Alsos Mission, Military Intelligence Service,
War Department, be awarded the Legion of Merit.

b. Colonel Boris T. Pash, was serving as a lieutenant Colonel and
Chief of Mission, Alsos Mission on temporary duty from the War Department in the
European Theater of Operations at the time of the acts for which this award is
recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: Mrs. Lydia V. Pash, 1264
Portola Drive, San Francisco, California.

d. Entered military service from: CALIFORNIA

e. Decorations previously awarded: NONE

f. The entire service of Colonel Boris T. Pash has been honorable
since the rendition by him of the acts on which this recommendation is based.

g. Similar recommendation for this officer has not been submitted.

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(see back of document) date 12/22/81

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2. GENERAL DATA:

a. The officer recommending this award has knowledge of the acts upon which this recommendation is based. This knowledge is based on review and verification of highly classified Alsos Mission reports submitted to the undersigned.

b. Recommendation is not supported by an official record, since the acts were of such nature that no official record of it was kept.

c. Colonel Boris T. Pash, while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious services in the completion of highly important intelligence assignments.

d. Accomplishment of the acts for which this award is recommended extended from periods as indicated below, and which have been completed.

(1) Paris, France, 22 August 1944 to 25 August 1944.

(2) Vicinity of Brussels, Belgium, and vicinity of Marseilles, Bordeaux, and Toulouse in Southwestern France, period 5 September 1944 to 12 October 1944.

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3. DETAILS OF THE FACTS (sub par 1, d, par 2)

a. Introductory Summary:

(1) On 22 August 1944 Colonel Boris T. Pash, accompanied by Major Horace K. Calvert, embarked from England for France on a highly important intelligence assignment. The assignment was to take into custody a scientist who was believed to be in possession of information of the utmost importance to the Allies. Having crossed the Channel in a small dispatch boat on 22 August 1944, Colonel Boris T. Pash made preparations at Valognes for the Advance to Paris. The problem of motor transport was a serious one due to the fact that available transport was already utilized, however, two jeeps were obtained. The party, which included Colonel Boris T. Pash, Major Horace K. Calvert, Special Agent Gerald L. Beatson and Pfc Nathaniel W. Leonard, left Valognes on the morning of 23 August 1944, and proceeded toward Paris, following the progress of the field forces into Rennes, in the Brittany Peninsula, and east to Le Mans, which was reached at 0100 hours. The conditions at night were hazardous, due to unfamiliarity with the roads, blackout regulations, and the necessity for haste. It should be kept in mind that the successful completion of the mission depended

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upon an arrival in Paris among the first of the Allied forces, since the extreme importance of the scientist sought was well known to the Germans, and, it was logical to assume that the enemy would prevent, if possible, the scientist from remaining in Paris.

b. Difficulties of the Problem:

(1) The party left Le Mans at 0400 hours 24 August 1944, for Paris reaching Rambouillet (50 kilometers southwest of Paris) and after making an estimate of the time being consumed by the American forces for the drive on Paris, Colonel Boris T. Pash's decision was that if his mission was to be successfully accomplished, it would be necessary to alter the original plans, and attempt to enter Paris in advance of the American forces. The rest of the afternoon was spent in making preparations for the final drive into the city, the entire party sleeping that night in the vicinity of Rambouillet. Leaving this point the following morning, the party drove on to Paris and at Longjumeau encountered leading elements of a French tank column, which was progressing towards Paris, and entered Paris at Porte d'Orleans several tanks behind the head of the column at 0855 hours. At that time the enemy had not completely withdrawn from the city and there was still considerable activity in the city. The party met enemy small arms fire

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and were forced to take cover. During this time the party returned the fire.

Enemy resistance was reasonably subdued by the tanks, whereupon Colonel Boris

T. Pash led the advance into the heart of the city, despite the danger of the in-

termittent sniper fire met all along the route. This hazard was disregarded

by the party because of the time element's effect on the success of their

mission. At 1630 hours the party reached a location previously selected as

headquarters, and from there proceeded towards their objective without bene-

fit of tank protection. After a short drive down the streets they were forced

to leave their jeeps and take cover because of three enemy tanks in the vicini-

ty. As soon as the situation was such that they felt there was any reasonable

chance of success, they once more proceeded on their way and arrived at their

target at 1645 hours 25 August 1944. The scientist whom they were seeking

was located and taken into protective custody. The scientist is at present

rendering considerable valuable assistance to the Allies. The successful

accomplishment of the mission was due solely to the courage and selfless devo-

tion to duty displayed in deciding to take advantage of the enemy confusion,

even at grave risk to personal safety, and, also to the fine qualities of

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leadership Colonel Boris T. Pash displayed in his mission.

3. DETAILS OF THE FACTS (sub par (2), d, par 2)

a. On 5 September 1944 Colonel Boris T. Pash led a party consisting of Captain R. C. Augustine, Special Agents Gerald L. Beatson, and Carl F. Fiebig, and proceeded to Brussels, Belgium, on an urgent War Department mission. This mission was to find and secure quantities of a highly critical material that had also been sought by the enemy. Colonel Boris T. Pash directed and led the search for this material, and, on 7 September 1944, had secured information as to the whereabouts of a major portion of the material. Pursuing this lead, this material was determined to be about two hundred yards from the front lines. He therefore, led the party through scattered enemy fire and after three searches, under hazardous conditions, recovered this portion of the critical material. Additional amounts, after intense investigation, supervised by Colonel Boris T. Pash, were reported to be somewhere in Southwestern France. On 26 September 1944 Colonel Boris T. Pash led a party consisting of Major Robert R. Furman, Major John E. Vance, Captain R. C. Augustine, and T/4 Nicholas R. Dolida and departed for southwestern France.

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Here a more intense investigation was initiated. Additional large quantities of the critical material was located in Toulouse. The Intelligence Branch, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, reported that scattered bands of enemy troops were still operating in this area, having been isolated by the rapid Allied advance. Despite this threatened danger, Colonel Boris T. Pash personally led his small unit through this area and located the critical material. On 6 October 1944 the party returned to Paris where Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Robert R. Furman made arrangements with theater officials to utilize a truck convoy in transporting this material to a port and to ship it to a friendly country. On 12 October 1944 the highly critical material was under guard and ready for shipment to the United States.

b. DIFFICULTIES OF THE PROBLEMS:

(1) As set forth above, many difficulties were encountered. For a greater part of the time the operations were carried through without benefit of protection from field forces, the only arms in their possession being of small caliber. This in no way deflected the party from its objective. Another

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difficulty was fact that the location of the material had been carefully guarded, and the only other possible means of locating it would have been to thoroughly investigate railroad freight records and correspondence. Most of the investigation along this line indicated loss of much records through Allied or enemy bombardment of railroad yards, freight stations, etc., and also the fact that these records were several years old and, in many cases, had been utilized as scrap because of the paper shortage. Every available lead was followed and only through tireless effort and skilled direction was it possible to achieve the results obtained in these operations.

4. SUGGESTED CITATION

a. For exceptionally meritorious services in the outstanding performance of two highly important missions during the periods 22 August 1944 to 25 August 1944, and 5 September 1944 to 12 October 1944, Colonel Boris T. Pash displayed ability, courage, fine qualities of leadership, and selfless devotion to duty at the expense of personal risk and danger. He rendered outstanding services which were of material aid in obtaining for the Allies information and a highly critical material of paramount importance.

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HEADQUARTERS
EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
Alsos Mission
APO 837

*by Harold Thors Pomeroy
to Lonsdale
and/or
Adams*

9 June 1945

STATEMENT

In connection with recommendation being submitted to the War Department for the award of the Legion of Merit to Colonel Boris T. Pash, O-275706, GSC, the undersigned desires to verify the following facts contained therein:

"1. On 22 August 1944, Colonel Boris T. Pash, accompanied by Major Horace K. Calvert, embarked from England for France on a highly important intelligence assignment. The assignment was to take into custody a scientist who was believed to be in possession of information of the utmost importance to the Allies. Having crossed the Channel in a small dispatch boat on 22 August 1944, Colonel Boris T. Pash made preparations at Valognes for the advance to Paris. The problem of motor transport was a serious one due to the fact that available transport was already fully utilized, however, two jeeps were obtained. The party, which included Colonel Boris T. Pash, Major Horace K. Calvert, Special Agent Gerald L. Beatson and Pfc Nathaniel W. Leonard, left Valognes on the morning of 23 August 1944, and proceeded toward Paris, following the progress of the field forces into Rennes, in the Brittany Peninsula, and east to Le Mans, which was reached at 0100 hours. The conditions at night were hazardous, due to unfamiliarity with the roads, blackout regulations, and the necessity for haste. It should be kept in mind that the successful completion of the mission depended upon an extreme importance of the scientist sought was well known to the Germans, and, it was logical to assume that the enemy would prevent, if possible, the scientists from remaining in Paris.

"The party left Le Mans at 0400 hours 24 August 1944, for Paris reaching Rambouillet (50 kilometers southwest of Paris) and after making an estimate of the time being consumed by the American forces for the drive on Paris, Colonel Boris T. Pash's

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decision was that if his mission was to be successfully accomplished, it would be necessary to alter the original plans, and attempt to enter Paris in advance of the American forces. The rest of the afternoon was spent in making preparations for the final drive into the city, the entire party sleeping that night in the vicinity of Rambouillet. Leaving this point the following morning, the party drove on to Paris and at Longjumeau encountered leading elements of a French tank column, which was progressing towards Paris, and entered Paris at Porte d'Orleans several tanks behind the head of the column at 0855 hours. At that time the enemy had not completely withdrawn from the city and there was still considerable activity in the city. The party met enemy small arms fire and were forced to take cover. During this time the party returned the fire. Enemy resistance was reasonably subdued by the tanks, whereupon Colonel Boris T. Pash led the advance into the heart of the city, despite the danger of the intermittent sniper fire met all along the route. This hazard was disregarded by the party because of the time element's effect on the success of their mission. At 1630 hours the party reached a location previously selected as headquarters, and from there proceeded towards their objective without benefit of tank protection. After a short drive down the streets they were forced to leave their jeeps and take cover because of three enemy tanks in the vicinity. As soon as the situation was such that they felt there was reasonable chance of success, they once more proceeded on their way and arrived at their target at 1645 hours 25 August 1944. The scientist whom they were seeking was located and taken into protective custody. The scientist is rendering considerable valuable assistance to the Allies. The successful accomplishment of the mission was due solely to the courage and selfless devotion to duty displayed in deciding to take advantage of the enemy confusion, even at grave risk to personal safety, and, also to the fine qualities of leadership Colonel Boris T. Pash displayed in his mission.

"2. On 5 September 1944 Colonel Boris T. Pash led a party consisting of Captain R. C. Augustine, Special Agents Gerald L. Beatson, and Carl F. Flobig, and proceeded to Brussels, Belgium, on an urgent War Department mission. This mission was to find and secure quantities of a highly critical material that had also been sought by the enemy. Colonel Boris T. Pash directed and led the search for this material, and, on 7 September 1944, had secured information as to the whereabouts of a major portion of the material. Pursuing this lead, this material was determined to be about two hundred yards from the

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front lines. He therefore, led the party through scattered enemy fire and after three searches, under hazardous conditions, recovered this portion of the critical material. Additional accounts, after intense investigation, supervised by Colonel Boris T. Pash, were reported to be somewhere in Southwestern France. On 26 September 1944 Colonel Boris T. Pash led a party consisting of Major Robert R. Furman, Major John E. Vance, Captain R. C. Augustine, and T/4 Nicholas R. Dolida and departed for southwestern France. Here a more intense investigation was initiated. Additional large quantities of the critical material was located in Toulouse. The Intelligence Branch, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, reported that scattered bands of enemy troops were still operating in this area, having been isolated by the rapid Allied advance. Despite this threatened danger, Colonel Boris T. Pash personally led his small unit through this area and located the critical material. On 6 October 1944 the party returned to Paris where Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Robert R. Furman made arrangements with theater officials to utilize a truck convoy in transporting this material to a port and to ship it to a friendly country. On 12 October 1944 the highly critical material was under guard and ready for shipment to the United States.

"As set forth above, many difficulties were encountered. For a greater part of the time the operations were carried through without benefit of protection from field forces, the only arms in their possession being of small caliber. This in no way deflected the party from its objective. Another difficulty was the fact that the location of the material had been carefully guarded, and the only other possible means of locating it would have been to thoroughly investigate railroad freight records and correspondence. Most of the investigation along this line indicated loss of many records through Allied or enemy bombardment of railroad yards, freight stations, etc., and also the fact that these records were several years old and, in many cases, had been utilized as scrap because of the paper shortage. Every available lead was followed and only through tireless effort and skilled direction was it possible to achieve the results obtained in these operations."

The undersigned has personal knowledge of the acts as set forth above based on interviews with members of the parties accompanying Colonel Boris T. Pash, and on review of reports submitted by the Alsos Mission.

GEORGE R. ROCKMAN
Lt Col, MI
Deputy Chief

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(see back of document) date 12/22/81

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SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star

1. a. It is recommended that Major Robert R. Furman, O-350657, CE, War Department, be awarded the Bronze Star.

b. Major Robert R. Furman, was serving as a Major on temporary duty in Paris, France, from the War Department, at the time of the act for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: (Note: See form 66-1)

d. Entered military service from: (Note: See form 66-1)

e. Decorations previously awarded: None

f. The entire service of Major Robert R. Furman has been honorable

since the rendition by him of the act upon which this recommendation is based.

g. Similar recommendation for this officer has not been submitted.

2. GENERAL DATA:

a. The officer recommending this award has knowledge of the act upon which this recommendation is based. This knowledge is based on review and verification of highly classified Alsos Mission reports in the possession of the undersigned.

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b. Recommendation is not supported by an official record, since the act was of such nature that no official records of it were kept.

c. Major Robert R. Furman, while member of the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in the completion of a special intelligence mission.

d. Accomplishment of the act for which this award is recommended extended from 17 September 1944 to 12 October 1944.

e. The act was performed in Southwestern France, in the vicinity of Bordeaux, Marseilles and Toulouse.

3. DETAILS OF THE FACTS:

a. Introductory Summary:

On 17 September 1944 Major Robert R. Furman joined the ALSOS MISSION from the War Department. His assignment was to advise, and generally aid a party engaged in a search to secure quantities of a highly critical material that had also been sought by the enemy. Several days before, a portion of this material had been located in the vicinity of Brussels and arrangements made to dispose of it within a friendly country. Reports indicated that other quantities of this material were in the Southwest of France. On 26 September 1944, Colonel Boris T.

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past, Major Robert R. Furman, Major John E. Vance, Captain R. C. Augustine and 1/4 Nicholas Dolida departed for Southwestern France. Here began an intensive investigation, resulting in discovery of a major portion of the critical material in Toulouse, France. Large numbers of enemy troops were reported to be still in the vicinity but the search was completed without incidents, although Major Furman and party travelled widely in the area during the course of the search.

On 6 October 1944 the party returned to Paris where Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Robert R. Furman made arrangements with theater officials to utilize a truck convoy in transporting this material to a port and to ship it to a friendly country. On 12 October 1944 the critical material was under guard and ready for shipment to the United States.

b. DIFFICULTIES OF THE PROBLEMS:

(1) As stated in par 3 a. above, many difficulties were encountered.

The first was the fact that the location of the material was not known, and that the only possible means of locating it was to thoroughly investigate railroad

freight records and correspondence and conduct a difficult physical search.

Most of the investigations indicated loss of shipping records through Allied or enemy bombardment of railroad yards, freight stations and offices.

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4. SUGGESTED CITATION:

a. Major Robert R. Furman while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguished himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against an enemy of the United States.

Chief, Office of Industrial Security
Contract Administrator Services
Defense Supply Agency (13 Aug 53)
Hoover Institute Declassification Program

FOR INFORMATION: AUTHORITY:

Subject:

3 Hm

Reviewed:

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RECOMMENDED CITATION:

Major Robert F. Furman while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguished himself by meritorious service in connection with military operations not involving participation in aerial flight against an enemy of the United States.

AUTHORITY: MEMORANDUM FOR

Subject:

E Hm

Reviewer:

Chief, Office of Industrial Security
Contract Administration Services
Defense Supply Agency (13 Aug 73)
Hoover Institute Declassification Program

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SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star

TO :

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1. a. It is recommended that Major Horace K. Calvert, ASN 0353834, FA, Office of the Military Attache, London, be awarded the Bronze Star.

b. Major Horace K. Calvert, was serving as a Major attached to the Office of the Military Attache on special duty from the War Department, at the time of the act for which this award is recommended.

c. Name and address of nearest relative: (Note: See his Form 66-1)

d. Entered military service from: OKLAHOMA.

e. Decorations previously awarded: NONE.

f. The entire service of Major Horace K. Calvert has been honorable since the rendition by him of the act on which this recommendation is based.

g. Similar recommendation for this officer has not been submitted.

2. GENERAL DATA

a. The officer recommending this award has knowledge of the act upon which this recommendation is based. This knowledge is based on review and verification of highly classified Alsos Mission reports submitted to the undersigned.

b. Recommendation is not supported by an official record, since the act was of such nature that no official record of it would be kept.

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c. Major Horace K. Calvert, while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in the completion of a special intelligence mission.

d. Accomplishment of the act for which this award is recommended extended from 22 August 1944 to 25 August 1944, and has been completed.

e. The act was performed at Paris, France.

3. DETAILS OF THE FACTS

a. Introductory Summary:

(1) On 22 August 1944 Lt Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Horace K. Calvert embarked from England for France on a highly important intelligence mission. The assignment was to take into protective custody a scientist who was believed to be in possession of information of the utmost importance to the Allies. Having crossed the Channel in a small dispatch boat on 22 August 1944, Lt. Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Horace K. Calvert made preparations at Valognes for the advance to Paris. The problem of motor transport was a difficult one due to the fact that available transport was already utilized, however, two jeeps were obtained. The party, which included Lt. Colonel Boris T. Pash, Major Horace K. Calvert, Special Agent Gerald L. Beatson and Pfc Nathaniel W. Leonard, then left Valognes on the morning of 23 August 1944, and proceeded toward Paris, following

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the progress of the field forces into Rennes, in the Brittany Peninsula, and east to Le Mans, which was reached at 0100 hours. The conditions were hazardous, due to the unfamiliarity with the roads, blackout regulations, and the necessity for haste. It should be kept in mind that the successful completion of the mission depended upon an arrival in Paris among the first of the Allied forces, since the importance of the scientist sought was well known to the Germans, and, it was logical to assume that the enemy would prevent, if possible, the scientist from remaining in Paris.

b. DIFFICULTIES OF THE PROBLEM

(1) The party left Le Mans 0400 hours 24 August 1944, for Paris, reaching Rambouillet (50 kilometers southwest of Paris) and after making an estimate of the time being consumed by the American forces for the drive on Paris, Lt. Colonel Boris T. Pash and Major Horace K. Calvert came to the decision that, if their mission were to be successfully accomplished, it would be necessary to alter their original plans, and attempt to enter Paris in advance of the American forces. The rest of the afternoon was spent in making preparations for the final drive into the city. Leaving Rambouillet the following morning, the party drove on to Paris and at Longjumeau encountered leading elements of a French tank column, which was progressing towards Paris, and entered Paris several tanks behind

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the head of the column at Porte de Orleans at 0855 hours. At that time the Germans had not completely withdrawn from the city and there was still considerable enemy activity in the city. The party met enemy small arms fire and were forced to take cover. During this time the party returned the fire. Enemy resistance was reasonably subdued by the tanks, whereupon Lt. Colonel Pash and Major Calvert, despite the danger of intermittent sniper fire all along the route, continued the advance into the heart of the city. This hazard was disregarded by the party because of the time element. At 1630 hours Lt. Colonel Pash and Major Calvert reached the place previously selected as headquarters. From there they proceeded towards their objective without benefit of tank protection. After a short drive down the streets, they were forced to leave their jeeps and take cover because of three enemy tanks in the vicinity. As soon as the situation was such that they felt there was any reasonable chance of success, they proceeded once more on their way and arrived at their target at 1645 hours. The scientist they were seeking was located and taken into protective custody. This scientist is now rendering valuable assistance to the Allies. The successful accomplishment of the mission was due solely to the courage and selfless devotion to duty displayed in deciding to take advantage of the enemy confusion, even at grave risk to personal safety.

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4. SUGGESTED CITATION:

a. For exceptionally meritorious services in the outstanding performance of a special intelligence mission rendered during the period from 22 August 1944 to 25 August 1944, Major Horace K. Calvert displayed ability, courage and selfless devotion to duty at the expense of personal risk. He rendered an outstanding service which was of material aid in obtaining for the Allies, information of paramount importance.

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Chief Office of Industrial Security
Contract Administration
Defense Supply Agency (DASA)
Hoover Institute Declassification Program

AUTHORITY: MEMORANDUM FOR

Subject:

Reviewer: E. R. R.

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AUTHORITY: MEMORANDUM FOR Chief, Office of Industrial Security
Contract Administration Service
Defense Supply Agency (DAS) (10/1/70)
Hoover Institute Declassification Program

Subject:

Reviewer: E H M

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1430 THIRTY-THIRD STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

15 December 1976

Chief of Staff
United States Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

Subject: Recommendation for Award of The Distinguished Service Medal

The purpose of this communication is to recommend long overdue recognition of exceptionally outstanding service performed by Colonel BORIS T. PASH, now retired.

During World War II, the Allies were in desperate need of information concerning progress being made by Nazi Germany in the development of atomic explosives. A special task force was organized to obtain this critical information. Colonel Pash was selected to command the special task force known as The Alsos Mission which included, along with military officers and enlisted men, both American and British scientists.

With meticulous detail in planning and brilliant skill in executing the plans, Colonel Pash was able to coordinate the military and scientific efforts which made The Alsos Mission so tremendous a success. In recognition of the cardinal service he had rendered at great personal risk, the British awarded Colonel Pash The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

As Commanding General of the 6th Army Group during World War II, I was well aware of the importance attached to The Alsos Mission and of Colonel Pash's extraordinary performance as commander of that force. After the war, when I was Commanding General of The Army Ground Forces, convinced that his own country should give him the recognition he so richly deserves, I forwarded from my Headquarters a recommendation for the award of the Distinguished Service Medal for Colonel Pash. At that time every communication concerning The Alsos Mission was Top Secret and the recommendation for the award did not, for that reason, mention the word 'atomic.' The reviewing officers without doubt had no appreciation of the significance of the services Pash had rendered. Only a very few senior officers knew that information concerning atomic explosives was involved in the mission performed so admirably. As a matter of fact, the documents covering the activities of Alsos were declassified only a short time ago.

Dedicated and heroic service of the kind Colonel Pash gave should be recognized with gratitude. I am, therefore, enclosing pertinent supportive documents and recommending that the Distinguished Service Medal now be awarded Colonel BORIS T. PASH for his service as commander of The Alsos Mission in World War II.

JACOB L. DEVERS
Gen., USA, Ret.

1 Enclosure
List of Supporting
Documents w/16 Encls

NND 750122

List of Supporting Documents

1

Copy of memorandum from A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, to the Chief of Staff, European Theater of Operations, U. S. Army, dated 10 May 1945, for the Scientific Intelligence Mission to Europe, and for the Scientific Intelligence Mission to Europe, and for the Scientific Intelligence Mission to Europe.

2

Copy of letter to General Eisenhower from Henry L. Shuman, Secretary of War, May 11, 1945, which establishes the Scientific Intelligence Mission in Europe, designates Colonel Pash as Chief, stresses importance of the Mission and requests General Eisenhower's assistance.

3-1 to 3-7

Letter from Colonel Pash, 1 December 1945, explaining his search for supporting documents and setting forth some of his responsibilities. Attached are copies of two War Department directives, 5 and 22 February 1945, regarding aggressive action on Colonel Pash's part to secure vital information. In the attached communications, the evidence is clear that Colonel Pash is solely responsible to the War Department for the directed operations.

4-1 to 4-5

Letters, November 3 and December 3, 1945, from Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit, who was the Chief American Scientist with the Alsos Mission, and related papers.

5

Copy of letter from A. C. of S., G-2, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, 2 March 1945, granting the Commanding Officer of ALSOS Unit (Colonel Pash) exclusive investigation authority in the Supreme Headquarters, AEF, Area of Responsibility.

6

Copy of memorandum from Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, 11 April 1945, introducing Colonel Pash to the Commanding Generals of the 21st, 12th and 6th Army Groups and to the Commanding General of the Communications Zone, indicating his responsibilities and directing their full cooperation.

7-1 to 7-2

Copy of letter from Brigadier General Eugene L. Harrison, A. C. of S., G-2, 6th Army Group, 30 April 1945, to General Devere (Commanding General), citing the accomplishments of Colonel Pash as commander of a special Alsos Task Force in that area.

8

Copy of "EYES ONLY" message from General Eisenhower to Secretary of War, relating the success of the Alsos Mission headed by COLONEL PASH in the 6th Army Group Area.

9

Copy of memorandum from Dr. S. A. Goudsmit, Chief Scientist with Alsos, 29 June 1945, to Colonel Pash, Chief of Mission, regarding seizure of 22 grams of radium, an illustration of the type of dangers Pash was expected to carry out. The radium was verified. See reverse side.

LIST OF SUPPORTED DOCUMENTS

Number of
Enclosures

- 1 Copy of memorandum from A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, 3 May 1944, to the Chief of Staff, European Theater of Operations, U. S. A., laying groundwork for the Scientific Intelligence Mission to collect the enemy's scientific developments and designating Colonel Boris T. Pash as Chief of Mission.
- 2 Copy of letter to General Eisenhower from Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, May 11, 1944, which establishes the Scientific Intelligence Mission in Europe, designates Colonel Pash as Chief, stresses importance of the Mission and requests General Eisenhower's assistance.
- 3-1 to 3-7 Letter from Colonel Pash, 1 December 1976, explaining his search for supporting documents and setting forth some of his responsibilities. Attached are copies of two War Department directives, 5 and 22 February 1945, requesting aggressive action on Colonel Pash's part to secure vital information. In the attached communications, the evidence is clear that Colonel Pash is solely responsible to the War Department for the directed operations.
- 4-1 to 4-5 Letters, November 5 and December 3, 1976, from Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit, who was the Chief American Scientist with the Alsos Mission, and related papers.
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- 6 Copy of memorandum from Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, 11 April 1945, introducing Colonel Pash to the Commanding Generals of the 21st, 12th and 6th Army Groups and to the Commanding General of the Communications Zone, indicating his responsibilities and directing their full cooperation.
- 7-1 to 7-2 Copy of letter from Brigadier General Eugene L. Harrison, A. C. of S., G-2, 6th Army Group, 30 April 1945, to General Devers (Commanding General), citing the accomplishments of Colonel Pash as commander of a special Alsos Task Force in that area.
- 8 Copy of "EYES ONLY" message from General Eisenhower to Secretary of War, relating the success of the Alsos Mission headed by BORIS PASH in the 6th Army Group Area.
- 9 Copy of memorandum from Dr. S. A. Goudsmit, Chief Scientist with Alsos, 25 June 1945, to Colonel Pash, Chief of Mission, requesting seizure of 22 grams of radium; an illustration of the type of dangers Pash was expected to carry out. The radium was secured. See reverse side.

Encl 1

NND 750122

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Number of Enclosures

- 10-1 to 10-4 Letter from Brigadier General Eugene L. Harrison, Ret., December 21, 1976, who served during World War II as G-2, 6th Army Group, supporting his recommendation for Distinguished Service Medal for Colonel Pash. Copy of recommendation for DSM made in 1945 attached.
- 11-1 to 11-2 Copy of Biography of Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit, Chief Scientist with The Alsos Mission. Note Award of Medal of Freedom at end of World War II.
- 12-1 to 12-5 Copies of letters of commendation from General Groves, Chief of the Manhattan Project, 6 April 1944, 28 March 1945, 26 November 1945, and related papers.
- 13 Copy of memorandum from the Acting Chief, Policy Staff, War Department, 30 October 1945, to Chief, Military Intelligence Service, calling attention to the fact that Colonel Pash had not received appropriate recognition.
- 14-1 to 14-2 Copy of memorandum from Colonel Feodor O. Schmidt, Chief, Policy Staff, War Department General Staff, December 5, 1945, to Chief, Military Intelligence Service, recommending the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to Colonel Boris T. Pash for the "exceptional success achieved" in carrying out the Intelligence Missions assigned him.
- 15-1 to 15-4 Copies of miscellaneous commendations of the accomplishments of ALSOS under the command of Colonel Pash.
- 16-1 to 16-3 Copy of the award of the British MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE to Colonel Boris T. Pash, with related papers.

Copy of memorandum from A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, 3 May 1944
to the Chief of Staff, European Theater of Operations, U. S. A.,
laying groundwork for the Scientific Intelligence Mission to collect
the enemy's scientific developments and designating Colonel Boris T.
Pash as Chief of Mission.

Encl
1
to Encl
1

In Reply Refer to:
ID 904 (5-12-44)

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-2
WASHINGTON

3 May 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, USA:

Subject: Mission to Collect Intelligence of Enemy's
Scientific Developments.

1. a. The bearer of this memorandum is Lt. Colonel Boris T. Pash, Chief of the Scientific Intelligence Mission of the Military Intelligence Division, War Department, whose trip to your theater is referred to in our radio number 33279 of 6 May 1944 and your reply of 9 May 1944, number E26959.

b. On this trip, Colonel Pash will make only preliminary arrangements and return promptly to Washington. Shortly thereafter, it is proposed to send him back to London accompanied by the chief of the scientific group and other personnel.

2. a. Copies of memorandums to the Chief of Staff, dated 1 April 1944, (Tab 1) and 11 May 1944, (Tab 2) are inclosed. These explain the scope of activities contemplated.

b. The organization as set forth in the inclosures is based on the successful experience of the Alsos Mission in Italy and is considered most practicable for the purpose. Since opportunities to gather scientific information will probably diminish rapidly after initial occupation, it is important that members of the Mission be permitted to enter captured territory as soon as the military situation permits.

3. The successful accomplishment of this Mission is considered of highest importance to the War Department. It is requested that the necessary CIC agents with language qualifications and clerk-stenographers be assigned to the Mission when requested by Colonel Pash, and that he be assigned vehicles and other equipment as necessary. It is not anticipated that the number of CIC agents to be requested will exceed six.

4. It is also requested that the necessary arrangements be made to provide Colonel Pash with ample funds for the accomplishment of the Mission. A detailed accounting of funds will be made to the Finance Officer, Military Intelligence Service, War Department.



Clayton Bissell
CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General
A. C. of S., G-2

2 Atts.

T's 1 and 2.

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NOTE:-----Long aware of Colonel Pash's outstanding service, the undersigned volunteered to assemble the supporting information for General Dever's recommendation if Colonel Pash would assist in securing supporting documents. It is unfortunate that some of the communications referred to have not been located.

James C. Fry
James C. Fry, MG U.S. Army, Ret.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 750122

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Encl 1 to Encl 1

Copy of letter to General Eisenhower from Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, May 11, 1944, which establishes the Scientific Intelligence Mission in Europe, designates Colonel Pash as Chief, stresses importance of the Mission and requests General Eisenhower's assistance.

Encl
2
to Encl
1

Letter from Colonel Pash, 1 December 1976, explaining his search for supporting documents and setting forth some of his responsibilities, along with copies of two War Department directives, 5 February and 22 February 1945, requesting aggressive action on Colonel Pash's part to secure vital information. In the attached communications, the evidence is clear that Colonel Pash is solely responsible to the War Department for the directed operations.

Encl 3
to Encl
1

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MAY 11 1944

WDG B I
Col. Nichols
72536

General Dwight D. Eisenhower,
Commanding General, U. S. Army Forces,
European Theater of Operations,
London, England.

Dear General Eisenhower:

Lt. Colonel Boris T. Fash, who will deliver this letter, has been designated Chief of the Scientific Intelligence Mission organized by G-2 of the War Department to procure intelligence of the enemies' scientific developments. The Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development is assisting G-2 in the conduct of this mission, and I consider it to be of the highest importance to the war effort.

Colonel Fash was Chief of the Alps Mission, which operated for similar purposes in Italy. The results obtained from that mission indicate that its activities should be extended to other regions. It is believed that considerable important information will be procured in the European Theater of Operations, particularly after the occupation of territories now under Axis control.

The scientific group of the mission will be headed by a scientist to be selected by the Office of Scientific Research and Development, and it will include the necessary additional scientists competent to seek and evaluate the information. However, your assistance is essential, and I hope that you will give Colonel Fash every facility and assistance at your disposal which will be necessary and helpful in the successful operation of this mission.

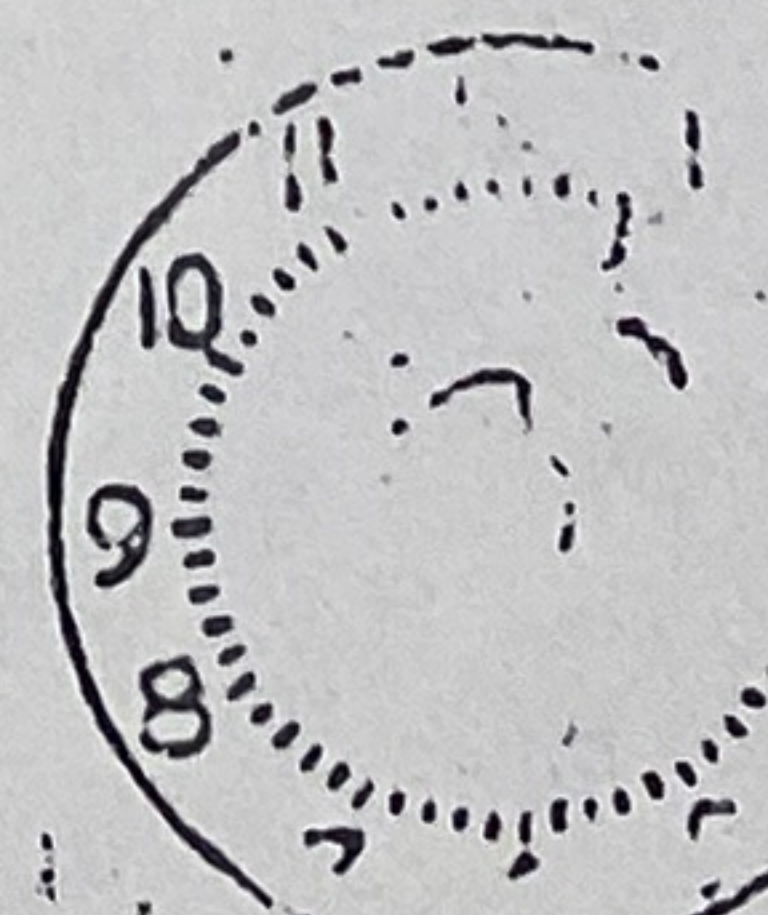
The organization and objectives of the mission are more fully explained in a memorandum to the Chief of Staff, ETUSA, from Major General Clayton Bissell, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, EDCE, dated 3 May 1944.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War.

MAY 12 1944



DECLASSIFIED

DOD Dir. 5200.9, Sept. 27, 1958
NMW by W date 10/3/67

COORDINATION
AND R. DIV.
OFF. S. WAR

ORIGINAL DISPATCHED FROM
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF

given to Col. Fash

*Encl 2 to
Encl 1*

1 December, 1976

Maj. Gen. James C. Fry, USA Ret.
3276 Juniper Ln.
Falls Church, VA 22044.

Dear General Fry:

I was touched by your offer to prepare in my behalf a recommendation for The Distinguished Service Medal.

I have obtained copies of a number of documents which, together with a brief synoptic coverage of Alsos activities and responsibilities might be helpful. Obtaining documents and having them declassified presented problems because of the high security classification and the unusual status of Alsos.

For the same reason, Alsos was a one-man type operational leadership in the planning and directing of its responsibilities. Because of this all War Department operational instructions and directives, and all operational coordination in the field was the responsibility of the Commanding Officer.

The modus operandi, conditioned by the above, required that the Chief of the Scientific Group of Alsos submit to me his requirements and targets (personnel and installations) of interest to Alsos.

The Alsos Mission or Alsos (code name for the Scientific Intelligence Task Force, G-2, WD) was activated in WWII initially to obtain intelligence on possible Axis atomic bomb development. It operated in the European and Mediterranean Theaters.

The major scientific fields of Alsos responsibilities included intelligence on --

Atomic bomb development
Other atomic weapons
Bacteriological warfare
Organization of enemy scientific research
Aeronautical research
Proximity fuses

German research facilities for guided missiles
The Speer Ministry's research interest
Chemical research
Metallurgical research
Shale oil development
Miscellaneous intelligence

Seventy U. S. scientists, all leaders in their respective fields and seventeen Allied personnel of whom 10 were scientists or high level technical personnel, were attached to Alsos. The remaining Allied personnel were officers of the technical services.

British Atomic and Bacteriological Warfare Intelligence efforts and British personnel in these fields were assigned to Alsos.

The Alsos Mission . . . by Col. Boris T. Pash Ret., 20 Lower Via Casitas #11, Greenbrae, Ca. 94904

The operational planning and the conduct of the operations was my responsibility. Most of the operations were carried out under my personal direction. Nine Alsos operations were conducted under enemy fire, of which four while in advance of the forward combat units.

When the situation assured reasonable safety for the scientists, those concerned were brought up by the Alsos rear echelon so that they could conduct interrogation of the captured enemy scientists and investigate the seized installations.

Two Alsos operations were particularly critical and highly sensitive because of direct Allied government interest, without whose knowledge they were carried out. One was the seizure in September, 1944 of the French government arsenal in Toulouse, territory loosely held by French partisans, and the removal and shipment to the U. S. of over 80 tons of critical material. The second was a lightening type night operation, shortly after the cessation of hostilities, to remove an appreciable amount of the world supply of radium from the German Bureau of Standards, located in a town to be occupied early the next morning by Soviet forces. Alsos ordered to conduct operation by C/S, SHAEF as only means of preventing radium to pass into Soviet control.

The reputation established by Alsos is well reflected in two WD communications (5 and 22 February, 1945), directing me to assume certain responsibilities in operations of overall War Department interest:

Coordinate field investigations by all U.S. technical intelligence teams relative to the possible knowledge by the enemy concerning American VT fuses. This was critical intelligence important to the Pacific Command.

Assume WD representation on the Combined U.S.-British "Accommodation Panel", CIDS.

The command of Alsos was a most satisfying and rewarding experience. The challenge of coordinating combat operations with the requirements of the scientists and of achieving close cooperation between the military and the scientific personnel was the highlight of my service.

A report by General Leslie R. Groves to G-2, WD is one instance which fully reflects the significant contribution of Alsos to the Allied war effort. In reporting on the results of Alsos "Strasbourg operation," he stated "this is the most complete, dependable and factual information we have received bearing on the nature and extent of the German atomic effort..." and that the intelligence was vital to the Allied war planning.

James P. Baxter's reference to Alsos in his book "Scientists against

The Alsos Mission . . . by Col Boris T. Pash Ret., 20 Lower Via Casitas #11, Greenbrae, Ca 94904

Time" -- "one of the finest examples of cooperation of the scientists and the Armed Forces" -- illustrates the successful internal organization and administration which permitted Alsos to achieve its outstanding record.

I trust the above will give you a general picture of this, at the time, unique organization in the history of the U.S. Army and its operation.

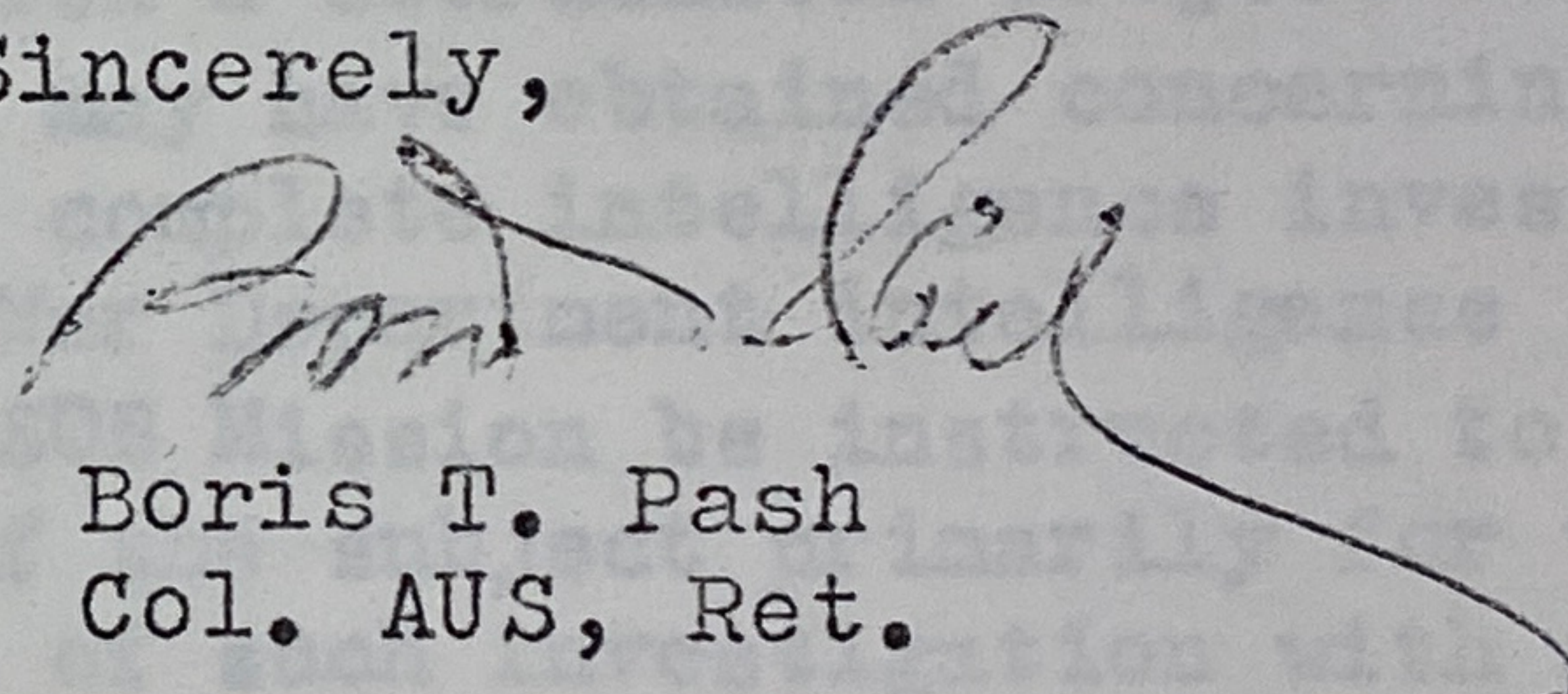
A light but true comment -- the only guidance I received when Alsos was first organized were as follows:

"Play it by Ear"

"Do not step on anyone's toes"

Again, thank you for your interest and effort.

Sincerely,



Boris T. Pash
Col. AUS, Ret.



ALSCS MISSION

~~SECRET~~
WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
WASHINGTON

G-2
Hq. 5 Feb 1945

MID 915

5 February 1945

SUBJECT: Establishment of ALSOS Mission Project Regarding VT Fuses

TO : Lt. Colonel B. T. Pash, Chief, ALSOS Mission, c/o G-2 Section,
Hq. ETOUSA, APO 887, U S Army, c/o Postmaster, New York, N.Y.

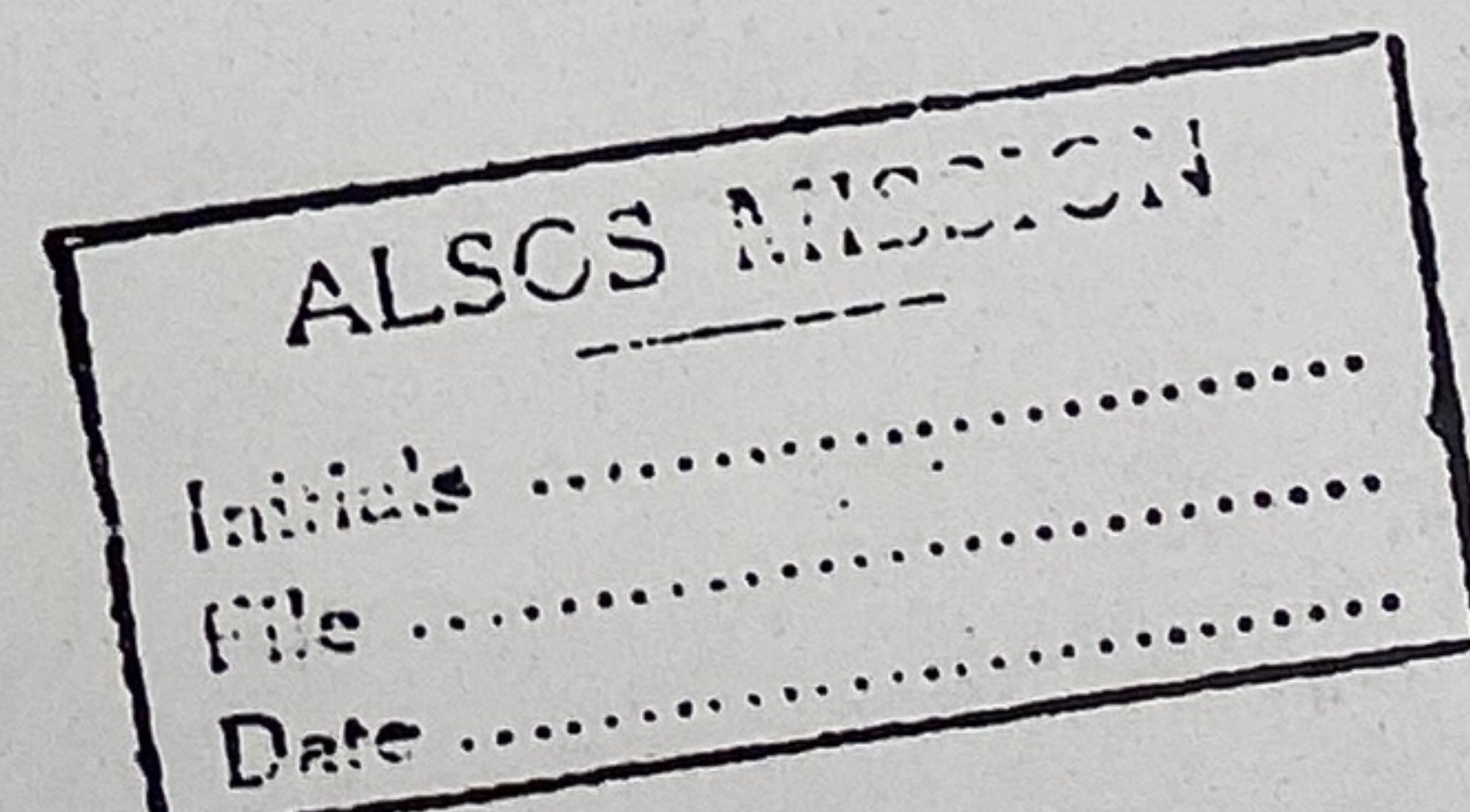
1. The War Department and the Office of Scientific Research and Development desire that all of the intelligence collection facilities of the War Department be utilized to establish a coordinated project relative to the possible knowledge the enemy may have obtained concerning American VT (influence) fuses. Although complete intelligence investigation on this subject will involve all War Department intelligence agencies, it was recommended that the ALSOS Mission be instructed to make a coordinated field investigation of the subject primarily for the War Department, coordinating the results of such investigation with any similar investigations being made primarily for the Theater Commander by the various technical agencies in the field.

2. In accordance with the above, it is directed that the ALSOS Mission take the action necessary to initiate this project, using the following principles as a guide:

a. Dr. E. O. Salant, representing the Office of Scientific Research and Development and the New Developments Division, War Department, will depart for the European Theater on or about 15 February 1945, and it is desired that he be attached to the ALSOS Mission to function as the chief scientific coordinator in all matters relating to this project.

b. Operationally, ALSOS Mission participation will be limited to investigation of the following points:

- (1) German knowledge of the VT fuse.
- (2) Possibility of German counter-measures against our use of the VT fuse.
- (3) German capabilities for developing and utilizing this fuse or a similar fuse against the Allies (including V weapons and bombs, as well as artillery shells).



ALSOS Mission
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c. ALSOS Mission is to secure information through all available theater sources, including ASF Technical Intelligence Teams, O.S.S., Etc.

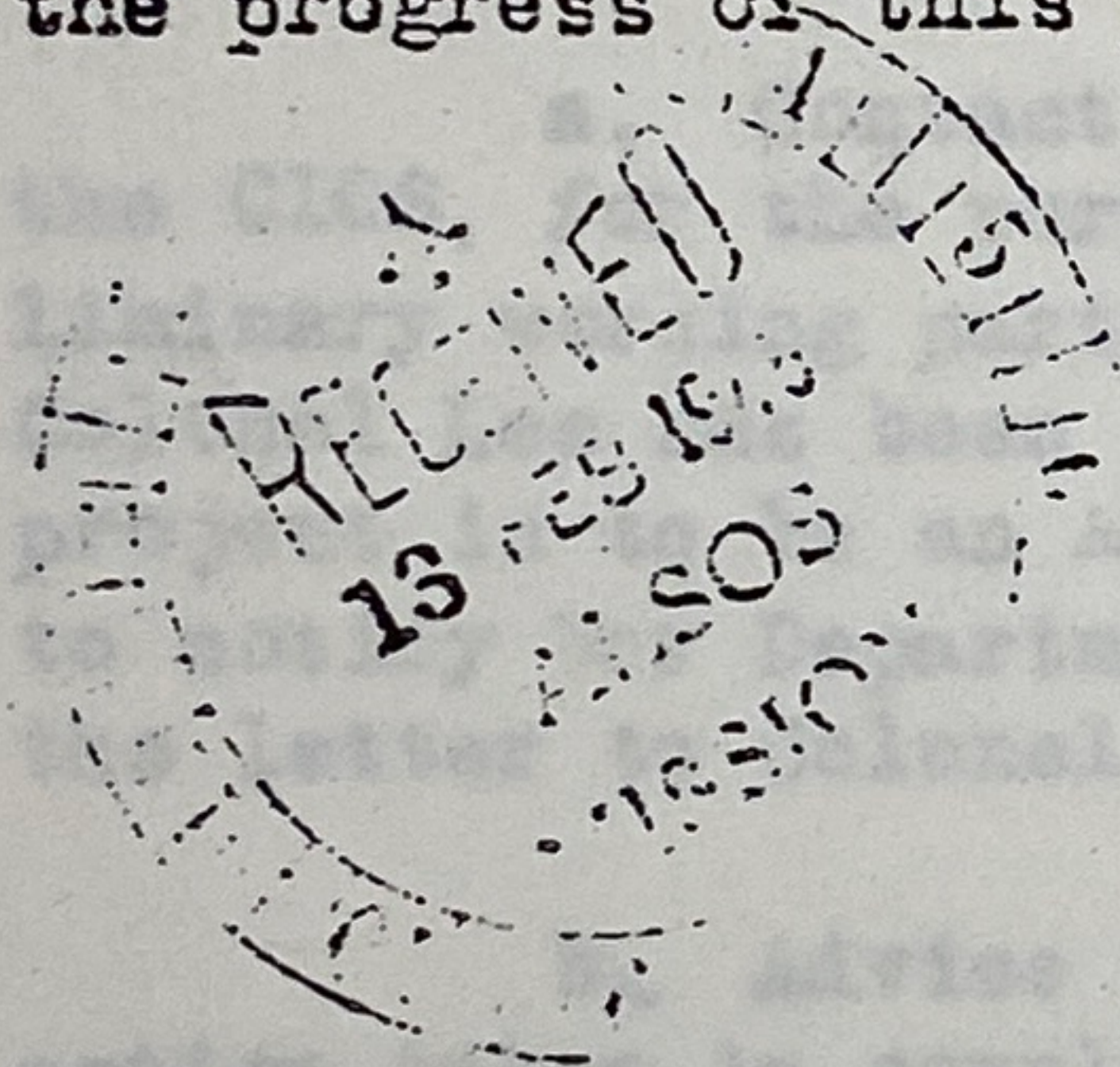
d. ALSOS Mission is to coordinate this project with any other similar project now being conducted by G-2, ETOUSA, and to arrange for full exchange of information.

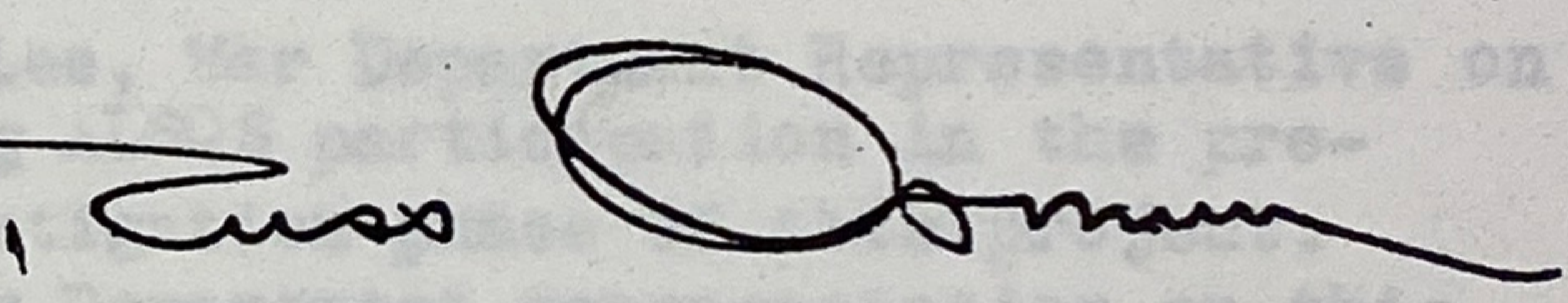
e. The results to be evaluated and prepared as ALSOS Mission reports under the supervision of Dr. Salant, and to be forwarded to the War Department for further distribution.

f. Copies of the ALSOS reports prepared on this subject are to be furnished to G-2, ETOUSA, and to G-2, SHAFF, and the distribution of the reports is to be subject to the usual regulations of G-2, SHAFF, relative to ALSOS Mission activities.

3. The War Department has taken the necessary steps to coordinate ALSOS Mission activities on this project with all other agencies concerned. M.A. Offices and ASF Technical Intelligence Teams will be instructed to cooperate with ALSOS wherever possible. It is to be emphasized, however, that all agencies contributing to a combined ALSOS Mission report are authorized to send copies of their own reports directly to their home offices.

4. It is desired that you keep this Office fully informed of all pertinent developments, and that periodic reports be submitted, outlining the progress of this project.




R. A. OSMUN
Brigadier General
Chief, Military Intelligence Service

Note by Col. Boris T. Pash AUS Ret. (14 Sept. 1976)

Dr. Salant had informed me that this activity was of vital importance to US operational planning in Pacific Theater. It was urgent for us to determine if Germans had obtained any info on our VT Fuses and trans-mitted such info to Japanese.

ALSOS Mission

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BY SP-8, GLE

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Encl 5 to Encl 1



WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, G-2
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

MID 906

22 February 1945

SUBJECT: Intelligence Project - ALSOS Mission

TO : Lt. Colonel B. T. Pash, Chief, ALSOS Mission, c/o G-2 Section,
Hq. ETOUSA, APO 887, U S Army, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

1. Reference is made to the attached copies of correspondence outlining the establishment of the CIOS "Accommodation Panel" under the guidance of Professor R. P. Linstead, British Ministry of Economics Warfare, and Mr. W. T. Stone, U. S. Economic Warfare Division in London. It is desired that maximum security be accorded the information contained in these inclosures.

2. Many of the specific targets listed by the CIOS under this project are also ALSOS targets of primary interest, and it is clear that this project is entirely within the scope of ALSOS Mission purview. For this reason, it is desired that War Department representation in this particular aspect of CIOS activities be effected by the ALSOS Mission. Since it is not known to what extent the activities of the "Accommodation Panel" have been revealed to the various members of the CIOS, it is directed that you secure the prior clearance of G-2, SHAEF, in carrying out the following action at the earliest possible date:

a. Contact Colonel Carnes Lee, War Department Representative on the CIOS, for the purpose of arranging ALSOS participation in the preliminary working party and field investigation phase of this project. Colonel Lee has been informed that War Department representation on this project is to be an ALSOS Mission responsibility, and has been instructed to notify War Department agencies in the Theater of this fact. A copy of the letter to Colonel Lee is attached for your information and guidance.

b. Advise the Scientific Advisory Section of G-2, SHAEF, of action taken in compliance with sub-paragraph a above. It is suggested that this contact be made through Dr. H. P. Robertson, who represents the A. C. of S., G-2, War Department, on the Advisory Section.

c. The Director of Naval Intelligence has agreed that Navy representation in this activity is to be effected through ALSOS, and has requested that you inform Commodore H. A. Schade, Senior Naval Member, ALSOS Mission, of the contents of this letter, and arrange with him for Naval participation.

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Subject File

SUBJECT: Intelligence Project - ALSOS Mission

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22 February 1945

d. The Office of Scientific Research and Development has agreed that their representation will be through Dr. Goudsmit, Scientific Chief, ALSOS Mission, and have authorized him to inform Dr. Archambault, OSRD Representative on the CIOS, of this arrangement.

3. A research project has been initiated in MIS, War Department, to secure additional information relative to this subject, and all available material will be periodically forwarded to you to provide the necessary data for the preparation of specific targets.

4. It is desired that this Division be kept currently informed of the progress made by the ALSOS Mission in this matter.

CLAYTON BISSELL

Major General, GSC

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

2 Incls:

1. Corresp. re Est. of CIOS "Accommodation Panel"
2. Ltr to Colonel Lee

John Weckerling
JOHN WECKERLING

Brigadier General, GSC

Deputy A.C. of S., G-2

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BY

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2 March 1945

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Gravel 5 to Gravel 1

Letters, November 5 and December 3, 1976, from Dr. Samuel A. Goudsmit,
who was the Chief American Scientist with the Alsos Mission, and
related papers.

Encl
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